

493 Horse Pond Rd.
Madison, CT 06443
March 3, 2015

To the Connecticut Legislature

Re: in support of Senate Bill 918

Dear Senators,

My husband and I are in our 60's; our son Greg is 38 and has intellectual disabilities. We are all life-long residents of Connecticut.

Greg has had oversight from the Department of Developmental Services for over 20 years; he has been considered a "Priority One" for residential placement for over 10 years. My husband has had significant health challenges since 1996. Greg has often been shortchanged of experiences in deference to my husband.

It has been my expectation since Greg was young that he would transition to some type of supervised residence when he became an adult. Funding cuts over the past 20 years are making this event seem much more distant. While living at home, Greg is growing to be increasingly dependent on me to make miniscule decisions, even though he has the capability to do this for himself. He lacks the self-confidence to do things for himself and fails to see he is an adult. When he is with others, he exhibits much greater independence.

We need Connecticut to make provisions for Greg and people like him to transition out of home care and into housing with other people with disabilities so they can become as independent as possible and develop to their full potential. We need this to happen now, while we, his parents, are living, mentally capable, and able to oversee the transition. People with disabilities need time for transitions. Waiting until there is a crisis does them a terrible disservice and is not in their best interest.

I urge you to move forward and approve SB 918. I thank you for listening.

Yours truly,

Doris L. Simonides

Doris L. Simonides
203-245-3630
dsimonides@comcast.net